**COVID-19 & Extra Emergency SNAP Benefits:**

**What You Need to Know**

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) continues to issue emergency SNAP (food assistance or food stamp) supplements to many SNAP households to help buy food during the pandemic crisis. In addition, now the federal government has boosted those allotments by 15% through June 2021.

**Will I get extra SNAP benefits?**

If your monthly SNAP benefit *is less than* the maximum SNAP for your household size, you will get a supplemental benefit up to the maximum SNAP grant for January and February, plus you will get 15% more. Thereafter, those households will get at least 15% more than their usual allotment through June 2021. DCF may also supplement these households up to maximum allotments in future months, but will make that decision on a month-to-month basis. If you already get the maximum SNAP benefit, you will get 15% more than the maximum allotment for your household size through June 2021.

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| **Household size** | **Max. SNAP/w 15%** |
| 1 | $204/$234 |
| 2 | $374/$430 |
| 3 | $535/$616 |
| 4 | $680/$782 |
| 5 | $807/$929 |
| 6 | $969/$1114 |
| 7 | $1071$1232 |
| 8 | $1224$1408 |
| **Each add’l member** | **+$153/$176** |

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| **Examples** | |
| *Supplement* | *No Supplement, just 15% more* |
| Family A gets $200/mo in SNAP for one adult and 2 kids. This family will get **a supplement of $335 to bring them to the max for 3 in Jan. and Feb., PLUS they will get 15% more** – boosting SNAP to $616 (max for 3 plus 15%). | Family B gets $535/mo in SNAP for one adult and 2 kids. Although this family gets the max for 3, they will get 15% more, $81, boosting their total SNAP to $616 . They will get this 15% boost through June 2021. |
| Individual A gets $16/mo in SNAP. This individual will get **a supplement of $188 to bring them to the max for 1 in Jan. and Feb., PLUS they will get 15% more** – boosting SNAP to $234 (max for 1 plus 15%). | Individual B gets $204/mo in SNAP. Although this individual gets the max for one, they will get 15% more, $30, boosting their total SNAP to $234. They will get this 15% boost through June 2021. |

**If I qualify for extra SNAP, when will I get it?**

DCF has been supplementing benefits for current recipients since March 2020. This continues in January and February 2021. For past months, families should have already gotten their extra SNAP, if they were eligible for an increase.

* Recipients should have received all of their supplemented January allotments by January 26. In February, households who normally receive their monthly allotment between the 1st and 9th will receive the monthly maximum allotment around the 10th. All other families can expect additional benefits to be included as a part of their regularly scheduled benefit allotment. New recipients will get additional benefits within two weeks of being approved.

**How do I find out how much I get in SNAP and whether I get extra SNAP?**

* DCF may not send you a notice for extra SNAP. Check your balance and your monthly SNAP benefit amount by:
* Checking your EBT balance online or by calling 1-888-356-3281.
* Calling DCF’s Customer Call Center at 1-866-762-2237 or 850-300-4323.

**Do I have to re-certify to keep getting SNAP?**

**YES!** Although DCF extended some participants’ eligibility periods for a while during the pandemic, starting September 2020 you must reapply before your certification ends to keep getting benefits. Be on the lookout for a notice from DCF telling you about your need to recertify.

**What if I need help food shopping?**

Any member of your household can use the SNAP EBT card to food shop. Their name does NOT need to be on the card. You can also give your EBT card temporarily to a *trusted friend or relative* to food shop for you. The store should not inspect the card. The store should not refuse to serve any customer with an EBT card and PIN. You can also use your EBT card to shop for food online at Walmart and Amazon. You may be able to arrange curbside pick-up. If the groceries are delivered by Walmart or Amazon, your EBT card may not be used for the delivery fees. If you order above certain maximum amounts, the delivery fee may be waived.

**What if I do not already get SNAP?**

If you are low-income, apply now. If you are approved, you may also qualify for an extra SNAP payment. There are several ways to apply:

* The fastest way to apply is [**online.**](https://dcf-access.dcf.state.fl.us/access/scrflstartappl.do?performAction=init&showMensaje=true)
* DCF [says](https://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/access/general-program-information.shtml) that you can use a paper application by downloading and printing from this site:

<https://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/access/common-access-florida-forms.shtml>. The completed paper application can be mailed to ACCESS Central Mail Center, P.O. Box 1770, Ocala, FL, 34478-1770, or it can be faxed or hand-delivered to a [customer service center](https://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/access/map.shtml).

* In some areas, [community partners](https://access-web.dcf.state.fl.us/CPSLookup/search.aspx) may be open and able to help you apply. Call to confirm.
* You can apply for SNAP by phone if you have no other way to submit an application. The number to apply by phone is 866-762-2237 or 850-300-4323 (TTY 1-800-955-8771).

**What other resources can help me?**

* DCF COVID-19 information: <https://www.myflfamilies.com/covid19/>
* For information for workers who have lost pay: <http://www.floridajobs.org/Reemployment-Assistance-Service-Center/reemployment-assistance/claimants>
* For updated information on food resources: <https://www.floridaimpact.org/covid-19>
* For help with emergency food resources in your community:
  + Find a local food bank through <https://www.feedingflorida.org/taking-action/find-food-now/?foodSource=Food%20Banks>
  + Call 2-1-1 or visit<http://www.my211florida.org/>
* If your SNAP benefits are wrong, find free local legal help at <https://thefloridabarfoundation.org/>
* DCF COVID-19 information: <https://www.myflfamilies.com/covid19/>
* For information for workers who have lost pay: <http://www.floridajobs.org/Reemployment-Assistance-Service-Center/reemployment-assistance/claimants>
* For help with emergency food resources in your community:
  + Find a local food bank through <https://www.feedingflorida.org/taking-action/find-food-now/?foodSource=Food%20Banks>
  + Call 2-1-1 or visit<http://www.my211florida.org/>
* For updated information on food resources: <https://www.floridaimpact.org/covid-19>

